

January 4, 1967

Dr. Jack H. Mendelson  
National Center for Prevention and Control  
of Alcoholism  
National Institute of Mental Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Dr. Mendelson:

This piece in today's Wall Street Journal reminded me that I had a trivial note on my pad at the last Council meeting with respect to possible animal models for alcohol-dependence. I was thinking of the recurrent accounts of Robins and perhaps other birds becoming staggeringly drunk in large numbers by the engorgement of overly fermented berries. This is just an anecdotal observation, but I would guess a reliable one. If some ornithologists could document species differences in this behavior, it might, however, give some clue where to look for biochemical correlates of the differences.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

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